

Message Text

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17

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-20

USIA-06 IO-04 AID-05 SR-02 ORM-01 DRC-01 /070 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 672

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 6241

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PINT, PINS

SUBJ: CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC REACTION TO LEIGHTON CASE

REF: SANTIAGO 6158

1. WE HAVE OBTAINED COPY OF OFFICIAL STATEMENT BY CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDC) ISSUED BY PARTY PRESIDENT PATRICIO AYLWIN AND DATED OCT 9, CONCERNING GOC DECISION TO BAR REENTRY TO CHILE OF IMPORTANT PDC MEMBER BERNARDO LEIGHTON (REFTEL). STATEMENT TERMS GOC ACTION "AN UNJUSTIFIABLE OUTRAGE," ARGUES THAT ONLY COURTS CAN MAKE SUCH A DECISION AFTER DUE LEGAL PROCESS, CITES LEIGHTON'S LONG HISTORY OF PUBLIC SERVICE, UNDERLINES DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CRITICISM OF JUNTA AND ATTACK ON CHILE, AND CONCLUDES WITH ENERGETIC PROTEST AGAINST GOC'S "ABUSIVE ACTION --- WHETHER OR NOT WE SHARE LEIGHTON'S PERSONAL OPINIONS."

2. PDC SOURCES TELL US COPIES OF STATEMENT HAVE BEEN SENT TO ALL SANTIAGO NEWSPAPERS AND DISTRIBUTED TO INTERNATIONAL WIRE SERVICES. TO DATE, HOWEVER, ONLY MENTION HERE HAS BEEN EXTREMELY OBLIQUE REFERENCE IN "LA TERCERA" OCT 11 IN ARTICLE REPORTING AYLWIN'S VISIT TO MINISTRY OF INTERIOR PREVIOUS DAY "TO DISCUSS QUESTIONS RELATING TO PDC PROPERTY."

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3. COMMENT. ASSUMPTION IS GOC ORDERED MEDIA NOT TO

PUBLICIZE STATEMENT, AT LEAST UNTIL GOC HAS TIME TO FIX ITS OWN POSITION. AS EXPRESSED IN STATEMENT, PDC REACTION TO LEIGHTON AFFAIR IS CONSIDERABLY STRONGER THAN WE HAD ANTICIPATED.

4. GOC IS NOT LIKELY TO BE IMPRESSED BY PDC'S LEGAL ARGUMENT OF JUDICIARY'S JURISDICTION IN THIS AREA, AND LACK OF DUE PROCESS.

POPPER

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NNN

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